In the Claims

Applicant has submitted a new complete claim set indicating marked up claims with insertions and deletions indicated by underlining and strikeouts, respectively.

Please cancel claims 1-19, and 32-60 without prejudice or disclaimer.

1-19. (Canceled)

n is an integer between 2 and 10, inclusive.

20. A method of selectively modifying nucleic acid molecules in a biological composition, said method comprising the step of contacting the composition with an inactivating agent having the formula:

$$\omega$$
- X_1 - $[R_1$ - $N^+(R_2, R_3)$ - $]_nR_4$ $(X_2)_n$ wherein X_1 is Cl or Br; R_1 is a divalent hydrocarbon moiety containing between 2 and 4 carbon atoms, inclusive; each of R_2 , R_3 , and R_4 is, independently, H or a monovalent hydrocarbon moiety containing between 1 and 4 carbon atoms, inclusive, provided that R_2 , R_3 , and R_4 cannot all be H when R_1 contains 2 carbon atoms; X_2 is a pharmaceutically acceptable counter-ion; and

- 21. The method of claim 20, wherein R_1 is alkylene and each of R_2 , R_3 , and R_4 is, independently, H or alkyl.
 - 22. The method of claim 20, wherein R_1 contains 3 carbon atoms.
 - 23. The method of claim 20, wherein each of R₂, R₃, and R₄ is H or a linear alkyl group.
- 24. The method of claim 20, wherein X_2 is selected from the group consisting of chloride, bromide, acetate, and tosylate.
 - 25. The method of claim 20, wherein n is 3 or 4.
- 26. The method of claim 20, wherein said biological composition is a cell-containing composition.

- 27. The method of claim 20, wherein the nucleic acid molecules are contained within a transforming DNA fragment.
- 28. The method of claim 20, wherein said nucleic acid molecules are contained within an infectious vertebrate virus.
 - 29. The method of claim 28, wherein the virus is an enveloped virus.
 - 30. The method of claim 28, wherein the virus is a non-enveloped virus.
- 31. The method of claim 28, wherein said inactivated virus comprises a killed virus vaccine.
 - 32-60. (Canceled)